Consciousness an afterthought

The central point is that the consciousness is an advanced information channel.

Consciousness is not the seat of the self or free will. The action is in the sub-consciousness brain systems.

Consciousness is a "just so story teller" consciousness collects and correlates scenes into sequential presentations.

The function of consciousness is to provide a new information channel between other brain systems. The pre-consciousness communication between brain systems evolved and is limited by the possible pathways, these pathways did not provide the possibility of a historical correlation or integration with a high level pattern of cause and effect at a significantly abstract but focused level.

Consciousness provides this pathway.

Consciousness provides this pathway by providing a method for the brain to take its existing expressions both visual and auditory and re-create a time line of experiences and conversations that are then re-presented to the rest of the brain through the existing sensory channels at the level of the brain.

This is not a feedback loop in the simple sense, but a feedback loop of a rarified and extremely intensely processed, correlated and organized remembering.

This allows the brains different functional entities to get information that it could not get from the evolved pre-consciousness internal pathways.

These presentation are used by the other brain systems in a manner similar to any sensory input.

This perspective would place Consciousness in the position of a cyber reality generator that feeds back to the rest of the brain.  
  
The different memory systems, short term memory, spatial memory, episodic memory , Temporal **Memory** and so on are the source material for the story teller.  
Episodic memory is especially interesting with regard to a possible story tellers role and consciousness.

In a manner that reminds us of the two visual pathways, Consciousness provides a third multi-modal sensory pathway.

The sensed data, in this case, are not the data of the independent sensory systems, but the finished re-created impressions modified and re-imagined as part of the just so story.

So the just-so-story is not a simulation or model like some other lower level brain systems, but a re-created imagined reality.

The purpose or function of Consciousness if I may use that phrase is to provide a blackboard for presenting a possible storyline of our internal and external experiences.

The rest of the brain can then experience this blackboard using the pre-consciousness brain system technology.  
The advantage of the storyline is to give a communication channel between otherwise non-linked brain systems and to help correlate across a longer time period.  
The storyline may be more or less grounded in facts and cover the Gamut between dreams and our personal history.  
The storyline are colored by our own subconscious and self image and the truth beyond one's own remembrances is limited.  
  
Comparing Consciousness and Awareness illustrates the difference between the remembering and the story telling. Consciousness is like Awareness with a story added.

The main purpose was to uses a synonym that was not so value burdened.  
This would support the separation of Consciousness into its components and help clarify its actual properties.

This would move the study of what makes us human as far as the mind is concerned to   
the brain mechanisms and systems that are lumped under the catch-all term sub-consciousness.  
Here a new term is needed since the term sub-consciousness is a poor term for such an important functional system when  consciousness has lost its fascination.

vale is being pulled back on the personal aspects of consciousness and both technically and medically we are gaining a comparative access to the internal "feelings".  
  
Central to understanding Consciousness is to understand the "story teller".

While the following article is preoccupied with language, it points in the right direction.  
<http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/exchange/node/513>  
  
Seeing consciousness as a "just so story teller engine" only without all the "hopes and dreams" of free will and self seems to be a plausible explanation.   
  
The purpose is then simple but powerful, the consciousness provides another input channel to feed the story back into the brain.

General descriptions like goal formation. cognitive processes, memory tasks are slowly being replaced with more detail and operational specifications like evaluating recency, overriding automatic responses, verbal fluency, error detection, auditory verbal attention, and so on.  
This shift from an overview to a detailed engineering specification will continue.

This provides two important functions, one the information is shared across mind areas that do not have "internal" pathways.   
By using the "hearing" channel feeding the "story" in "after the ears" so to say provides a new communication channel.   
The same goes for visual imagination, the brain can re-work the "generated" image just as it would a external image.   
  
The second function is to provide perspective,context and history. By re-sensing the generated scenes the mind now has an added dimension of seeing time from the outside so to say. While sensory immediate experience is fast and time dependent the recreated story and scenes can be see with a time line.   
Of course this internal "just so story" allows multiple simulations/presentation/versions to be re-processed.   
  
I was experiencing comparing re-creating visual images and melodies and songs.   
I could experience many levels of success from just fragments to long sequences.   
The fuzzy nature of the images had a correlate in the fuzzy nature of the song reconstruction.   
  
My skills as a painter are very limited as is my singing abilities, but trying to re-create a reconstruction both as an auditory and visual reconstruction gives incite into the reconstruction process and its limits.   
So seeing the consciousness "just so story" as a expansion and building on the auditory and visual reconstruction process seems like a possible even likely evolutionary route to how and why consciousness evolved.

I have understanding and hope I understand, in any case I feel.  
  
One of the things I have learned from my studies of the brain/mind is that the brain is a "story teller" and a "prediction engine.  
It is very good at both of these things when they are in the relm of our evolutionary development and history.  
However they both fail when we must deal with things that are not on a human scale.  
If an set of observations is outside our-time-scale or outside our 'sensory-range' our evolved abilities are not appropriate.  
The prediction engine is coupled to the story teller and we generate scenarios (stories) both of what we have experienced and what we think we will encounter.  
I think one way to see the significance of this is to think about your dreams.  
  
A dream is a story generated by your brain but under the special condition that the 'fact verification engine' and 'motivational engine' are turned off.  
Very simply put, a dream shows the story generator at work in its lonesome.  
When you are awake you generate stories, but we call them reality, because the 'fact verification engine' is constantly adjusting the story to fit our sensory experience.   
Again very simply, there is little, if any, difference between the stories we call dreams and the stories we call dreams reality,  
except the actions of the  'fact verification engine' and a motivational engine.  
I want to point out that this description is a great simplification and  is my own as one way of presenting what I have learned.  
  
Now this might be going to far, but to give you the idea.  
  
This email, itself, is a 'story' that my brain has generated to "whole together' my knowledge. My motivational engine drives me to help you understand why things are the way they are. My story teller" in trying to make sense of all I have experienced, has generated this story which I then try to put in an email.  
  
The correctness of this email is dependent, assuming good intentions (motives) on my knowledge, but it is just as dependent on my 'fact verification engine' being able to connect all the dots so to say.  
  
So maybe a modern playwright, one who can bring the knowledge of neuroscience into a play, can help our culture understand itself.  
  
The scond part of Consciousness is issue raised by qualia and what it is like to feel like a bat.

If we remove the word bat, we have " what it is like to feel" which is the more interesting question.  
In my opinion this places Consciousness more in line with "feeling" which is a evolution of the senses.

So looking at what makes us awair of our senses our feeling is at the root of the actual act or us being awair of consiouness itself.

Here I am not talking about the story, but the fact that there is a "self" awair of a story being told.

This self is the same self that feels pain or feels any thing for that amter. It is at a much mor viserallevel that consiouness, it is at the border between the actual nerve imposles and the corelation fo those impolses. It is importat to separate the actual feel of pain, that is at the level of the quick reaction and the awairness of the pain that follows.

The awairness is somewhat like the story tweller in that it has a historical time component that acompanies the "discomfort"

The real study of waht we mistakenly attributed to consiouness, the feeling experienceing self is at the elvel of the transformation of nerve impulses into "feeling"

consiouness is the development of this transformation funtiona to "feeling/experienceing the "just so story" In a ense the feeling of the thoughts.

Just as the "just-so-story teller" consiouness was the extenstion of remembering using the existing language (visal and auditory) processing system, so to is the sense of self and free-will the extention of the sensory processing at the level of "feeling". When we feel alive, when we feel our self, we are using the brains functions of feeling in general applied to the brain itself.

To feel thoughts does not require a new sensory organ. Just as the sensory organs signals are processed and translated into the brains activity and possibly awareness, so to can the brain itself using the same mechanism to process its activity into specific activity or possibly awareness.

The brain in this sense can feel, not of the thoughts themselves, but the thinking.

Let me use a crude and speculative example, let's take the idea (feeling) of time.

We all know the feeling of expectation, waiting for something. We all are aware of how slowly time passes when we are waiting.

Just for the sake of argument, lets say that this "feeling" is actually the brain measuring its own busyness or activity. When the brain is not busy that is the feeling of waiting of boredom.

A simplification, but the human experience of time, is a measure of the brains level of activity.

Similar measurments by the brain of it's own functionaing could accdount for some of the emotional cahnges and difuese feeling that we sometimes reach our awairness.